

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9211

INFO CINCEUR FOR POLAD

S E C R E T MADRID 3843

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SP

SUBJ: SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
IN SPAIN

REF: (A) STATE 31505 (B) STATE 044098

1. I BELIEVE ESSENTIAL THRUST OF OUR ASSESSMENT OF A YEAR AGO (MADRID 3362 OF JUNE 14, 1973) REMAINS VALID. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN TO FULFILL US COMMITMENTS UNDER TERMS OF 1970 AGREEMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR BASE RIGHTS. THUS "NEED" FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE EMANATES FROM CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN WITH GOS. ANCILLARY OBJECTIVE WHICH MUST NOT BE OVERLOOKED HAS BEEN THAT OF MAINTAINING CONDITIONS FAVORABLE FOR SATISFACTORY RENEWAL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WE NOW ENJOY, ASSUMING IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST TO DO SO.

2. US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS BEEN LIMITED IN SCOPE AND MAGNITUDE, SO THAT ITS EFFECTIVENESS, IN TERMS OF MATERIAL IMPACT ON OVERALL SPANISH POSTURE, HAS BEEN AT BEST MINIMAL AND HAS BECOME VIRTUALLY NEGLIBLE SINCE COMPLETION OF OUTLAYS FOR MAJOR END-ITEMS. AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, US ASSISTANCE, EVEN AT PEAK YEARLY LEVELS UNDER PRESENT FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT, HAS AMOUNTED TO LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF TOTAL SPANISH DEFENSE REPORT. EFFECTIVENESS MUST THEREFORE BE JUDGED MORE IN MORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TERMS SUCH

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AS DEGREE OF SPANISH SATISFACTION WITH US FULFILLMENT OF ITS PART OF

1970 BARGAIN. IN THAT CONNECTION, THE REMAINING \$.83 AND \$.7 COMPLETE THE \$4.9 MILLION GRANT ORIGINALLY PROJECTED TO BE PROVIDED OVER THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. WHILE REMAINING AMOUNT DUE IS MINUTE IN DOLLAR TERMS, IT HAS SOMEWHAT GREATER IMPORTANCE AS SYMBOL OF US FULL ACCEPTANCE OF ITS OBLIGATIONS AND ITS RELIABILITY AS DEFENSE PARTNER. WHILE THERE OF COURSE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS, I CONSIDER THAT SPANISH HAVE BEEN GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH OUR PERFORMANCE SO FAR IN MEETING OUR QUID COMMITMENTS. TO THAT EXTENT THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MUST THUS FAR BE JUDGED A SUCCESS AND WE SHOULD AVOID JEOPARDIZING THIS SENSE OF SATISFACTION BY MEETING ALL FINAL QUID COMMITMENTS, HOWEVER SMALL. FURTHER, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT PRIMARLY OBJECTIVES OF CURRENT SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, MAINTENANCE OF US MILITARY INFLUENCE IN SPANISH ARMED FORCES AND STIMULATION OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES HAVE CLEARLY BEEN DESIRABLE BY-PRODUCTS.

IN SUM, EMBASSY BELIEVES SECURITY ASSISTANCE HAS HAD INTENDED FAVORABLE IMPACT AND SHOULD BE JUDGED EFFECTIVE BOTH IN TERMS OF CARRYING OUT OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER 1970 AGREEMENT AND OF ENHANCING ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE IMPORTANT TO SUCCESSFUL RENEWAL OF BASE RIGHTS ARRANGEMENTS. FOR FUTURE, HOWEVER, SPAIN'S OBJECTIVES APPEAR BY AND LARGE POLITICAL ALTHOUGH GOS OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THAT US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SPANISH ARMS INDUSTRY WOULD BE DESIRABLE QUID IN FUTURE, TRADITIONAL TYPE SECURITY ASSISTANCE NO LONGER APPEARS TO BE HIGH PRIORITY GOAL. BUT IF PRIMARY SPANISH OBJECTIVE OF US SECURITY GUARANTEE UNOBTAINABLE, SPANISH NEGOTIATORS MAY WELL FALL BACK ON DEMANDS FOR RENEWED PROGRAM OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN RETURN FOR CONTINUED USE OF SPANISH FACILITIES. SCOPE AND NATURE OF SUCH SPANISH DEMANDS, IF ANY, WOULD NOT BECOME CLEAR UNTIL LATTER STAGES OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF BASES AGREEMENT WHICH EXPIRES IN 1975.
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